

Collingdale, PA -- On Friday, March 23, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), attended and spoke at the 10th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Jerome Cherry.

“I congratulate Pastor Cherry for his 10th pastoral anniversary,” noted Joe at the banquet. “As someone who greatly understands the important role churches play in our neighborhoods and townships, I applaud Pastor Cherry for building a church that is one of the cornerstones of our community.”

Pastor Cherry is a resident of Yeadon, Pennsylvania and Pastor of the New Life in Christ Fellowship Baptist Church in Lansdowne. Born in Windsor, North Carolina, to James and Flora Cherry, Pastor Cherry moved with his 11 brothers and sisters to Lehigh at the age of 4. He was educated in the public school system of Philadelphia, served in the Army, and then received the call to preach in 1983.

Pastor Cherry was licensed to preach on January 22, 1984 and ordained as a Minister on February 25, 1990. He started off as an Assistant to the Senior Pastor at Sharon Baptist Church in Philadelphia, and in Jun 1993, became the Senior Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Philadelphia. In 1997, he founded the New Life in Christ Fellowship Church in Lansdowne.

His ministry has taken him from the streets of Philadelphia, to Africa, and to prisons throughout Pennsylvania. He has ministered at the SCI Graterford Prison, the Philadelphia House of Corrections, the Philadelphia Industrial Correction Center, the Detention Center, and the Youth Study Center School. Pastor Cherry conducts chapel at Philadelphia Christian Academy and he teaches Evangelism Explosion classes. He also administers pre-marital counseling.

“Pastor Cherry has demonstrated what one can accomplish when he has determination, spirit, and faith,” added Joe. “His selfless work has helped him touch the lives of many individuals and he has served as a positive role model for our community. I wish him the best as he continues his life’s mission.”

Pastor Cherry received his training from the Philadelphia College of the Bible in Langhorne, Evangelism Explosion Leadership Clinic Training at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida under Dr. James Kennedy, and Pastor Leadership classes through the Dallas Theological Seminary. He attends the Billy Graham School of Evangelism in Asheville, North Carolina and Pastoral Care classes at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill.

Pastor Cherry is married and has six adult children that live in various parts of the world, two daughters living at home, and three grandchildren.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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